

Application No. 10/023,255
 Docket No. 2001U012.US
 Reply to Office Action Dated December 1, 2004

Remarks

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 is amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Also, Claim 1 is amended to replace the "C₂" with -C₁-, as this was amended in the previous response in error by the Applicant.

Section 112 Rejections

Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as indefinite. Those claims are herein cancelled without prejudice.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 10-14 and 37 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated over US 6,399,724 ("Mitsui"), in particular, over the structures therein at cols. 35, line 60; col. 36, lines 1-35; col. 159, lines 20-25; and col. 160, line 60. The Applicant traverses this rejection, as Applicant's claimed invention is not disclosed in *Mitsui*.

In particular, those structures cited by the Examiner in *Mitsui* do not disclose the claimed invention. The pattern of substitution in the structures cited, made equivalent to those claims with respect to the imine bonding on one side of the bridge and the single bond on the other side of the bridge, are as follows:

Mitsui	Structure	R'	R
col. 35	RX=bridge—YR'	methyl	n-propyl
col. 36	RX=bridge—YR'	methyl	t-butyl, cyclohexyl, or multi-cyclic alkyl
col. 159	RX=bridge—YR'	methyl	isopropyl
col. 160	RX=bridge—YR'	methyl	benzyl

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Note that the group adjacent to the imine groups (R) in all but the structure at col. 35 is not a "straight chain alkyl" as is claimed by the Applicant. Further, the other group (R') on all structures cited by the Examiner is methyl, which is clearly not a "bulky" group as claimed.

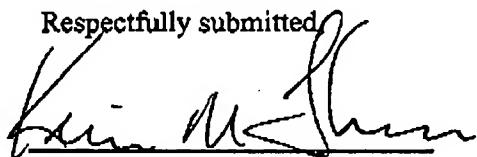
Applicant requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

It should be noted that the structure at col. 121 of *Mitsui* cited against the claims in the previous action does not read on the claims as presented previously, and the Claim 1 is thus amended to reflect that fact. In particular, while structure at col. 121 discloses a "methyl" group at the "R-equivalent" position, there is no disclosure of a "R'-equivalent" in the structure at col. 121. Thus, this structure does not disclose Applicant's invention as claimed.

It is submitted that the case is in condition for allowance. The Applicant invites the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any other issues outstanding which have not been presented to the Examiner's satisfaction.

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Respectfully submitted



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